

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A controlled public telephone communications system comprising:

a plurality of telephones at a given site;

a programmable control computer for switching, accessing, routing, timing, billing, and restricting usage of said telephones by particular individuals, said plurality of telephones being connected to said programmable control computer; and

~~an off site public switched telephone network;~~

~~a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network; and~~

switching means operable under control of said programmable control computer for selectively connecting said telephones with an offsite public switched telephone network via a said Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, wherein said telephones are connected to said offsite public switched telephone network only under control of said programmable control computer.

2. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 1 wherein programming for said programmable control computer is distributed to at least one remote location ~~locations~~ over said VoIP network.

3. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 1 wherein said programmable control computer further comprises a VoIP gateway for servicing and control of VoIP communications over said VoIP network.

4. (Currently Amended) The system recited ~~recited in~~ of 1 further comprising:
a plurality of given sites; and
at least one programmable control computer at each site, ~~[[;]]~~ wherein said plurality of given sites ~~being~~ are interconnected over said VoIP network.

5. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 4 further comprising:
a data exchange network interconnecting said plurality of given sites, wherein said telephone communications system ~~being~~ is integrated into said data exchange network.

6. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 1 wherein said ~~off-site~~ offsite switched telephone network is a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

7. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 1 wherein said offsite switched telephone network is a Private Branch Exchange.

8. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 1 wherein said programmable control computer ~~includes: a third-party call detect~~ further comprises a system for imposing a ~~third-party~~ three-way call restriction.

9. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 1 wherein said programmable control computer ~~includes:~~ further comprises a system responsive to a personal identification ~~numbers~~ number (PIN) keyed into at least one of said onsite public telephones for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with ~~individual~~ said PIN ~~numbers~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 3 wherein said gateway is an internal gateway.

11. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 3 wherein said gateway is an external gateway shared with other VoIP devices outside of said programmable control computer.

12. (Currently Amended) A controlled public telephone communication system comprising:

a plurality of telephones at a given site;

a programmable control system for performing the functions of switching, accessing, routing, timing, billing, and restricting use of said plurality of telephones by particular individuals, said plurality of telephones being connected to said programmable control system; and

~~an off-site public switched telephone network;~~

~~an Ethernet network interface at said site; and~~

~~a Voice over Internet Prototol (VoIP) gateway;~~

~~said telephones being connected through said Ethernet network interface and said Voice over Internet Protocol gateway to said off-site public switched telephone network.~~

a switch operable under control of said programmable control system for selectively connecting said telephones with an offsite public switched telephone network via a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, wherein said telephones are connected to said VoIP network only under control of said programmable control system.

13. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 12 wherein at least some of said functions of said programmable control system are performed off of said site, through said an Ethernet network interface.

14. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 12 further comprising: a plurality of given sites~~[[;]]~~, said sites being interconnected over an Ethernet network.

15. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 14 further comprising: a data exchange network interconnecting said sites over said Ethernet network.

16. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 15 wherein said programmable control system includes a control computer at each site.

17. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 12 wherein said ~~off-site~~ offsite switched telephone network is a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

18. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 12 wherein said programmable control system ~~performs the function of third party call detection for imposing~~ imposes a third party three-way call restriction.

19. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 18 further comprising:
a VoIP network, ~~wherein said VoIP gateway is a first VoIP gateway and is disposed~~
between said plurality of telephones and said VoIP network; and
a second VoIP gateway disposed between said VoIP network and said ~~off-site~~
offsite public switched telephone network.

20. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 19 wherein said ~~third party~~ three-way call detection is performed between said second VoIP gateway and said public switched telephone network.

21. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 16 wherein said control computer includes:
a system responsive to personal identification numbers (~~PIN~~) (PINs) keyed into said telephones for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with individual PINs ~~PIN numbers~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 16 wherein said control computer at each site includes a VoIP gateway.

23. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 22 wherein said VoIP gateway includes voice compression and packetization.

24. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 19 wherein said second VoIP gateway includes decompression and depacketization.

25. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 19 wherein said first VoIP gateway includes an Ethernet network interface.

26. (Currently Amended) A control computer for ~~a telephone communication system which includes~~ connecting a plurality of telephones at a given site ~~which are connected to an off-site~~ offsite public switching network via a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, said control computer comprising:

programmable means for restricting usage of said telephones by particular individuals; and

a VoIP gateway for translating signals from said telephones into data packets ~~which can be~~ transmitted over said a VoIP network to said offsite public switching network only under control of said control computer.

27. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 26 wherein said VoIP gateway includes voice compression and packetization.

28. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 26 wherein a second VoIP gateway includes decompression and depacketization.

29. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 26 wherein said VoIP gateway includes an Ethernet network interface.

30. (Currently Amended) The system ~~recited in~~ of claim 28 further comprising:
a ~~third-party~~ three-way call detection system for imposing a ~~third-party~~ three-way call restriction; ~~and a public switched telephone network~~, said ~~third-party~~ three-way call detection system being disposed between said second VoIP gateway and said public switched telephone network.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The system recited in claim 1~~ A controlled public telephone communications system comprising:
a plurality of telephones at a given site;
a programmable control computer for switching, accessing, routing, timing, billing, and restricting usage of said telephones by particular individuals, said telephones being connected to said programmable control computer, and said programmable control computer further comprising ~~includes~~ a system responsive to a calling card number associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said numbers being keyed into said telephones for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with individual numbers;
an off site public switched telephone network;
a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network; and
switching means for selectively connecting said telephones with said Voice over Internet Protocol network.

32. (Currently Amended) A call processing system for use in processing calls associated with a prison facility, said system comprising:
a plurality of telephone terminals disposed at said prison facility, wherein access to said plurality of telephone terminals is provided by said prison facility;
a voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) gateway coupled to said plurality of telephone terminals and disposed locally with respect thereto, said VoIP gateway ~~providing~~ having a digital data network interface providing digital communication of voice signals associated with one or more of said plurality of telephone terminals with user terminals external to said prison facility; and a processor-based system coupled to said VoIP gateway and disposed remotely with respect thereto, said processor-based system providing call control for ~~controlling~~ restricting communications between said plurality of telephone terminals and said user terminals external to said prison facility according to rules established by said prison facility.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[;]] wherein ~~said call control provided by said processor-based system comprises~~ makes a call routing determination.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[]] wherein ~~said call control provided by~~ said processor-based system ~~comprises~~ checks a telephone usage restriction ~~checking~~.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[]] wherein ~~said call control provided by~~ said processor-based system ~~comprises~~ makes a PIN verification determination.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[]] wherein ~~said call control provided by~~ said processor-based system ~~comprises~~ makes a billing determination.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[]] wherein ~~said call control provided by~~ said processor-based system ~~comprises~~ monitors a call ~~monitoring~~.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[]] wherein ~~said call control provided by~~ said processor-based system ~~comprises~~ detects a fraudulent call ~~fraud detection~~.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[]] wherein said fraudulent call ~~fraud detection~~ comprises a three-way call ~~detection~~.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[]] wherein said processor-based system provides real time call recording.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[]] wherein said processor-based system provides centralized call control functions at a central administration location.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[]] wherein said user terminals external to said prison facility communicate via the public switched telephone network.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for providing prison facility call processing, said method comprising:

coupling, via a digital data link, a centralized system providing call control functions to a prison telephone system having a voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) gateway; and

interfacing a telephone terminal of said prison telephone system coupled to said VoIP gateway with a public switched telephone network under control of said centralized system to ~~thereby complete~~ restrict a call between said telephone terminal of said prison telephone system and a telephone terminal coupled to said public switched telephone network, wherein said telephone terminal of said prison telephone system is connected to said telephone terminal coupled to said public switched telephone network only under control of said centralized system.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43[[:]] further comprising: monitoring said call to detect three-way calling.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44[[:]] wherein said monitoring said call to detect three-way calling is performed remotely with respect to said prison telephone system.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43[[:]] wherein said centralized system provides call recording with respect to said call.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43[[:]] wherein said centralized system provides billing with respect to said call.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43[[:]] wherein said centralized system provides routing with respect to said call.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43[[:]] wherein said centralized system provides caller identification checking with respect to said call.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43[[:]] wherein said centralized system provides three-way call detection with respect to said call.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43[[:]] wherein said centralized system provides fraud detection with respect to said call.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43[[:]] wherein said centralized system provides call monitoring with respect to said call.

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32[[:]] wherein said call processing system is a prison telephone system.

54. (New) The system of claim 3 wherein said VoIP gateway is a first VoIP gateway disposed between said plurality of onsite public telephones and said IP network, the system further comprising:

a second VoIP gateway is disposed between said IP network and said offsite switched telephone network; and

a three-way call detection system disposed between said second VoIP gateway and said offsite switched telephone network, wherein said three-way call detection system performs a three-way call detection upon a telephone signal that has been depacketized by said second VoIP gateway.

55. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein said onsite programmable control computer is responsive to an account associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said PIN being keyed into at least one of said plurality of onsite public telephones for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with said PIN.

56. (New) The control computer of claim 26 wherein said programmable means is responsive to an account associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said PIN being keyed into at least one of said plurality of telephone terminals for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with said PIN.

57. (New) The call processing system of claim 32 wherein said processor-based system is responsive to an account associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said PIN being keyed into at least one of said plurality of telephone terminals for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with said PIN.

58. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein said centralized system is responsive to an account associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said PIN being keyed into said telephone terminal for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with said PIN.